AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A gear unit comprising:

a housing,

two shafts arranged parallel with one another and each supporting a helically cut toothed gear, and

two pairs of bearings supported by or relative to the housing in an arrangement in which each pair of said bearings rotatably supports ~~a shaft~~ one of said two shafts with the helically cut toothed gears ~~of the~~, said two shafts being rotatable one relative to the other in mutual engagement,

wherein said two pairs of bearings of the two shafts lying to a common side of the inter-engaged ~~helical~~ helically cut toothed gears are supported by a substantially common wall section of the gear unit housing,

one of said two pairs of bearings being arranged to transmit axial forces to said common housing wall section ~~axial forces acting~~ in a direction from the helically cut toothed gears to [[the]] said one bearing, and the other bearing being arranged to transmit axial forces to said common housing wall section ~~axial forces acting~~ in a direction from said other bearing to the helically cut toothed gears.

2. **(currently amended)** [[A]] The gear unit according to claim 1, wherein said two pairs of bearings of the two shafts lying to a common side of the inter-engaged ~~helical~~ helically cut toothed gears are taper roller bearings.

3. **(currently amended)** [[A]] The gear unit according to claim 1, wherein the bearings of one shaft are arranged in the manner of an X type bearing configuration and the bearings of the other shaft are arranged in an O type configuration.

4. **(currently amended)** A gear unit comprising:

a housing,

two shafts arranged parallel with one another and each supporting a helically cut toothed gear, and

two pairs of taper ~~rotter~~ roller bearings supported by or relative to the housing in an arrangement in which each pair of said taper roller bearings rotatably supports ~~a shaft~~ one of said two shafts with the helically cut toothed gears ~~of the~~, said two shafts being rotatable one relative to the other in mutual engagement, [[the]]

wherein one of said pair of taper roller bearings ~~of one shaft being provided~~ is axially spaced in an O configuration in which the diameter of the bearing rollers of each bearing increases progressively in ~~the~~ a direction away from the other

bearing of the pair, and the taper roller bearings of the other shaft ~~being provided~~ is axially spaced in an X configuration in which the diameter of the bearing rollers of each bearing decreases progressively in ~~the~~ a direction away from the other bearing of the pair.

5. **(currently amended)** [[A]] The gear unit according to claim 1, wherein each ~~shaft~~ of said two shafts comprises a helical gear positioned axially between the pair of bearings of that shaft.

6. **(currently amended)** [[A]] The gear unit according to claim 1, [[and]] further comprising at least three mutually parallel shafts each provided with a helically cut toothed gear and rotatably supported in ~~a~~ said housing by a pair of bearings, one of said mutually parallel shafts being a ~~the~~ low speed shaft ~~being~~ that is rotatably supported by said bearings arranged in an X or O configuration of a type opposite the configuration of the bearings of ~~the~~ a neighboring shaft.

7. **(currently amended)** [[A]] The gear unit according to claim 6, wherein the low speed shaft is rotatably supported by said bearings arranged in an X or O configuration, and the gear unit comprises at least two additional shafts each rotatably supported by said bearings arranged in the same configuration as

one another, and opposite the configuration of the low speed shaft.

8. **(currently amended)** [[A]] The gear unit according to claim 7, wherein the low speed shaft is rotatably supported by said bearings arranged in an X type configuration.

9. **(canceled)**